Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace paragraph 19 with the following amended paragraph:

[19] Referring now to Figs. 1, 2A and 2B, one embodiment of a card destruction system 10 will be described. System 10 may conveniently be defined in terms of a card feeding portion 12, a card reading portion 14, and a card disposition portion 16. As best shown in Figs. 1 and 2B, card feeding portion 12 rests on a base 18 and comprises a holder 20 onto which a stack of cards may be placed **(one card 23 is illustrated in Fig. 1)**. Spaced apart from holder 20 is a biasing plate 22 that is biased toward holder 20 by a spring-loaded spool 24 having a length of wire 26 that is coupled to plate 22. In this way, the stack of cards is held between holder 20 and plate 22. As individual cards are removed from the stack, plate 22 moves closer to holder 20 to firmly hold the stack of cards against holder 20. Conveniently, card feeding portion 12 includes a pair of rails 28 between which the stack of cards are placed, and a rod 30 that acts as a guide or track for plate 22 as it moves toward and away from holder 20.

Please replace paragraph 22 with the following amended paragraph:

[22] As the card is moved through card reading portion 14, it passes through a slot 72 in card reader 64. In this way, the information stored on the magnetic stripe **73** of the card **(See Fig. 1)** is read and passed to controller 42 (see Fig. 7) via an electrical cable 74 (see Fig. 3). Although shown with a card reader that is configured to read magnetic stripes from cards, it will be appreciated that other types of readers may be used, such as, for example, readers for reading smart chips. Cable 74 is employed to transmit the information to controller 42. As described in greater detail hereinafter, this information is used to determine whether or not the card is to be destroyed. A presence sensor 76 is employed to sense the presence of the card after it passes through reader 64. As described hereinafter, sensor 76 may send a signal to controller 42 to indicate the presence of the card at the end of card reading portion 14. In this way, if the controller has not yet determined whether or not the card should be destroyed, the controller may

stop operation of rollers 58 and 60 so that the card does not continue to card disposition portion 16.

Please replace paragraph 27 with the following amended paragraph:

[27] In operation, a stack of cards is placed into card feeding portion 12 by distancing plate 22 from holder 20. System 10 is then actuated by use of controller 42 which begins operation of AC motor 102 and DC motor 110. Further, the controller causes roller 32 to rotate to dispense a card from the stack where it is grabbed by the various rollers and moved to card reading portion 14. In so doing, sensor 43 detects whether a card has been removed from the stack and advanced to card reading portion 14. If not, controller 42 reactuates roller 32 to supply another card from the stack. As the card passes through reader 64, information is read from the card and passed to the controller 42. Controller 42 then accesses a database (which may be a remote computer) to determine whether or not the card has in fact been flagged for destruction. If the card reaches sensor 86 before this determination is made, controller 42 stops operation of DC motor 110 to maintain the card within card reading portion 14. Once a decision as to whether the card is to be destroyed or not is made, the card is permitted to pass to card disposition portion 16 where controller 42 controls operation of flipper 88 to direct the card either into holding bin 90 or into chute 92. The cards within bin 90 are those which are not to be destroyed and are permitted to be collected. On the other hand, if the card passes into chute 92 it falls through the air into a card destruction device. As it falls through the air, sensor system 94 senses the presence of the card and sends a signal to controller 42 where a record is made of the destruction. In this way, an audit record **122 (Fig. 7)** is produced to show that the card was actually destroyed. Further, the controller may have an input device where information on the operator is entered so that the record will also have information on the operator running system 10 when the card was destroyed. Controller 42 may also include a timer to record the date and time of the card destruction.